Target for milk production

1291. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eighth Five Year Plan target for milk production has been put at 67.5 million MT according to ICARs DDC as reported in the 'National Herald' on the 12th June, 1989;

(b) whether Government are aware that Jha Committee had serious doubts on the accuracy of milk production claims in the country; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DEC in its reports and World Bank had made comments on the accuracy of these estimates;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government had decided to streamline milk production estimates; if so, whether this has been finalised; and

(e) what is the District-wise milk production of milk, as given by various States in their Annual Food Production Statistics Reports during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Eighth Five Year Plan target for milk production has not yet been finalised. However, DDG(AS) in his Foundation Day lecture at Assam Agricultural University in June, 1989 has stated that the projected target for eighth plan should be 67.5 million tonnes for milk to allow per capita availability of 205 grams for a population of 900 million.

(b) The Report of the Evaluation Committee on Operation Flood-II indicated the need for collecting relevant data. The recommendation has been accepted and various corrective steps taken are: (i) persuaded the various States to carry out the sample survey for the estimation of major livestock products including milk. The Union Government has released Rs. 191 lakhs towards its share during the first four years of Seventh Five Year Plan and Rs. 40.10 lakhs has been released during this year (out of a budget allocation of Rs. 82.0 lakhs), (ii) conducted various training programmes in order to have uniform concepts and definitions in the conduct of the survey in various States and Union Territories, (iii) released the State-wise milk production data upto 1986-87.

(c) A Joint Mission of consultants appointed by the EEC and the World Bank had visited India in July-August, 1986 to review Operation Flood-II and to make an appraisal of the new project Operation Flood-III. The report, observed that the official data appeared to be over-estimating the growth rate of milk production. Since the draft report indicated that the views of the consultants did not necessarily represent official view of the financing institution, the Government did not consider it appropriate to take any action in the matter.

(d) and (e) On the recommendations of the High Powered Technical Committee of Direction for the improvement of Animal Husbandry and Dairying Statistics, the milk production is estimated on the basis of sample surveys. These surveys are conducted on continuous basis in almost all the States. The State-wise production estimates are being released after careful examination and consultation of the Technical Committee of Direction. Efforts are being made to streamline the milk production estimates. The district-wise estimates of milk production as given by various States in the Annual Food Production Statistics Reports during the last three years are not available.